



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Ruffin Hall, City Manager
FROM: C.L. Deck-Brown, Police Chief
DEPARTMENT: Police
DATE: April 25, 2019
SUBJECT: Preliminary Report of April 20, 2019, Officer-Involved Shooting

An officer-involved shooting occurred on April 20, 2019, at 1030 North Rogers Lane. The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is conducting a criminal investigation of the shooting and will present the completed investigation directly to Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman for review. The Detective Division of the Raleigh Police Department is investigating the actions of Mr. Mojarrad. Additionally, the Raleigh Police Department's Office of Professional Standards is conducting an administrative investigation into the incident. When complete, the administrative investigation will be reviewed by members of the Command Staff.

All investigations are on-going, will be thorough, and will follow the available facts and evidence wherever they lead. Based upon the information currently available to the Department, a preliminary review of the incident provides the following:

At approximately 8:30 PM on Saturday, April 20, 2019, employees of the Sheetz gas station located at 5200 New Bern Avenue called 911 to report that an individual who had been asked to leave the business had returned. At approximately the same time, Senior Officer W.B. Edwards pulled into the Sheetz parking lot to fuel his patrol vehicle. While he was at the pump, a clerk from the store and a customer approached Officer Edwards. They told him that the individual about whom the store had called 911 had just stolen the customer's cell phone and left the scene. They provided a description of the individual, and the customer whose phone was stolen walked towards the shopping center in an attempt to find the individual.

Officer Edwards got into his marked patrol vehicle and drove around the shopping center looking for someone who matched the description of the individual. As he was driving, he observed someone who he believed may be the individual sitting on a bench behind a half wall, just outside a business located at the far east end of the shopping center. As Officer Edwards turned his patrol vehicle around to get a better look, the individual stood up and began walking east, towards the side of the shopping center. Officer Edwards got out of his patrol vehicle and told the individual to stop and that he needed to speak with him. The individual ignored Officer Edwards and continued to walk away. Officer Edwards continued to give him commands to stop. The individual, later identified as Mr. Soheil Antonio Mojarrad, turned and began screaming obscenities at Officer Edwards and waving his hands around. Officer Edwards tried to calm him down and told him he just needed to speak with him. Mr. Mojarrad continued to scream at Officer Edwards, who was standing less than twenty (20) feet away.

Mr. Mojarrad quickly reached his right hand into his front pants pocket. Officer Edwards, believing Mr. Mojarrad was attempting to retrieve a firearm, drew his firearm and told Mr. Mojarrad to stop. With his right hand, Mr. Mojarrad pulled a folding knife from his pants pocket and flicked it open as he raised it to head level. At the same time, he crouched in an aggressive stance, placed one foot behind him and angled his body at Officer Edwards, all while holding the knife in a threatening manner, and screaming profanity at Officer Edwards. Officer Edwards commanded Mr. Mojarrad to stop and drop the knife.

During the ensuing encounter, which lasted less than a minute, Mr. Mojarrad repeatedly advanced towards Officer Edwards, despite numerous commands to stop and drop the knife. Each time he advanced, Officer Edwards fired his service weapon at him, while ordering him to stop. Mr. Mojarrad eventually fell to the ground, with the knife still in his right hand.

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Officer Edwards called for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and back up assistance. Additional officers and EMS arrived on the scene and EMS personnel pronounced Mr. Mojarrad deceased at the scene.

Officer Edwards was wearing a body camera and his vehicle was equipped with a dash camera. His patrol vehicle was facing away from the scene of the shooting and did not capture the incident. Because Officer Edwards did not activate his body worn camera, there is no footage from his body worn camera of the shooting. SBI and the Raleigh Police Department have requested and/or obtained recordings taken from private security cameras in the shopping center. While they show the original larceny, as well as Mr. Mojarrad as he walks through the shopping center, none of the cameras recorded the shooting.

Pursuant to departmental policy Officer Edwards was placed on administrative duty pending the completion of the criminal and administrative investigations.